

*Description of a new genus belonging to the family Hepialidæ,
of Stephens,*

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THE paper on the genus "Charagia" of Walker, which I read at the last meeting of our Society, was an endeavour to correct certain important errors existing in the Catalogue of the British Museum, in relation to this group; to describe, in a concise manner, the habits and metamorphoses of the insects; and to place on record the existence of several new species. In illustration of the descriptions I then gave, I exhibited the coloured drawings of all the species enumerated by me, and I trust I succeeded in affording a clear perception of a class of insects, so peculiarly Australasian.

I now purpose to present to the attention of the members a new and very remarkable example of the Hepialidean family, and which I hope will prove not only acceptable, but will justify me in creating a new genus for its reception; one, I think, readily distinguished by several marked characteristics from any other, with which I am acquainted.

I may here remark that the fourteen genera which compose the Hepialidæ, according to the Museum Catalogue, are but feebly represented by species, no less than five of them having but one each, and it is therefore fairly presumable that the family is, at present, but inadequately known.

The magnificent forests and brushes of the temperate and tropical portions of the globe, thick with underwood, and climbing plants, must prove, if carefully searched, a prolific source for the production of very many new species of these lignivorous lepidoptera; and it is to such localities that the intelligent collector will have to look to supply the existing deficiencies.

Before proceeding further, I have to express my regret that the two examples, male and female, of the insect, now under

consideration, were forwarded to me in an imperfect state, but the numerous component parts, still perfect, render the restoration of the remains, a task of no great difficulty, and a matter of considerable certainty.

The female insect was captured, while at rest on the trunk of a tree, by my friend J. E. Stacy, Esq., while on a journey between Port Macquarie and Newcastle; to him, therefore, as its discoverer, I dedicate the specific name.

A short time afterwards the male was sent to me in a letter by the late Dr. Stephenson, of Chatham, Mauning River, accompanied with the following remarks:—"I found these splendid remains in a spider's web, and as it might be probable you may not have seen the insect before, I have taken the liberty of forwarding them to you."

The Manning River, as you are aware, is a short distance to the southward of Port Macquarie, and in the line of road to Newcastle, so that the two specimens of this rare insect were obtained nearly in the same locality, although at different periods.

HEPIALIDÆ. *Brit. Mus. Cat. Lep. Het.*, p. 1548.

Genus. ZELOTYPIA.

Corpus crassum; abdomen longum, alas posticas superans; alæ longæ, angustæ, apice sub-acuminatæ, margine exteriori perobliquo, tantum versus apicem lineis alternis vicibus undulatis; alæ anticæ ocellatæ, macula discali vitrea.

Fœm......caput porrectum: oculi prominuli: maxillæ obsoletæ: palpi breves, tennes: pedes exalcariti? anteriores validi, pilosi; posteriores graciles.

Mas......Pedes posteriores graciles, valde læsi.

Body thick; abdomen long, extending beyond the wings; wings long, narrow, slightly acuminate at the tips, extremely oblique along the exterior border, and crumpled towards the apices; fore wings with an ocellus on each, whose disc is vitreous.

Female..... Head projecting; eyes large and prominent; maxillæ obsolete; palpi short, slender; legs spurless? anterior pairs stout, pilose; posterior slender.

Male Legs, posterior pair, slender, much injured.

The wing veins are similar in structure to those of the genus *Hepialus*.

ZELOTYPIA Stacyi.

Male length of wings 76 lines ; of body 32 (?) lines¹.

Superior wings dark rich fawn-colour ; on the centre of each, a large dull green-coloured ocellus, encircled by a dark brown line, edged with white outwardly, and bearing within it a sub-diaphanous pearly spot. A broad, irregular, oblique transverse band of silver, crosses the wing slightly beyond the ocellus ; the whole space between this and the exterior margin is occupied by numerous wavy, very fine, distinct, light-coloured lines, disposed labyrinthically over the ground-colour ; the inner portion of the wing is thickly sprinkled over with silver, assuming towards the interior angle a series of ovoidal figures. The costa is very broad and powerful, amply barred transversely with irregular angular bands of silvery-white.

Inferior wings pale bright salmon-colour, darker towards the tips, where they become crumpled.

Female... .. length of wings 117 lines ; of body 47 (?) lines.

Superior wings pale salmon-colour ; the centre of each is occupied by a large, bright, ochreous ocellus, girded by rings of brown and white, and carrying within it a largish sub-diaphanous spot of a pearly hue ; a little to the outward of this latter spot, and nearly in the centre of the ocellus, a black lunule-shaped marking stretches across ; the discal areolet is thickly powdered over with white ; the broad space beyond and below the ocellus, from the tip of the wing to its interior base is fully occupied with numerous chaste wavy lines of reddish-brown, which

¹ 12 lines to the English inch.

become clouded towards the tip, but more distinct and vivid towards the basal portion, forming there five conjoined, semi-circular spots of dark brown, relieved by pale-coloured rings. The costa is very large and powerful; dark rich brown with numerous irregular, somewhat angular, transverse bars of yellowish-white.

Inferior wings, salmon coloured throughout. *Head, thorax*, and *abdomen*, salmon coloured.

The fanciful generic names usually adopted to distinguish the members of this family, has induced me to apply the equally fanciful one of *Zelotypia* to this new genus, derived from the male of these monsters possessing large dull-green eyes.